

Neutrino Oscillations v.s. Leptogenesis in $SO(10)$ Models

Emmanuel Nezri & Jean Orloff

*Laboratoire de Physique Corpusculaire
F-63177 Aubière Cedex*

ABSTRACT: We study the link between neutrino oscillations and leptogenesis in the minimal framework assuming an $SO(10)$ see-saw mechanism with 3 families. Dirac neutrino masses being fixed, the solar and atmospheric data then generically induce a large mass-hierarchy and a small mixing between the lightest right-handed neutrinos, which fails to produce sufficient lepton asymmetry by 5 orders of magnitudes at least. This failure can be attenuated for a very specific value of the mixing $\sin^2 2\theta_{e3} = 0.1$, which interestingly lies at the boundary of the CHOOZ exclusion region, but will be accessible to future long baseline experiments.

KEYWORDS: Baryogenesis, Solar and Atmospheric Neutrinos, Cosmology of Theories beyond the SM.

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1. Introduction

The evidence for a total asymmetry between baryon and anti-baryon densities in our surroundings is an indisputable fact of life. This could easily be accounted for by assuming that the initial conditions for our universe are such that this asymmetry is of order one. However, there is every reason to believe that the thermal history of the universe can be traced back in time using known particle physics up to temperatures of maybe 100 GeV, certainly high enough to massively produce quark-antiquark pairs. At these temperatures, big-bang nucleosynthesis requires[1] that the adiabatic invariant ratio

$$Y_B \doteq \frac{n_B - n_{\bar{B}}}{s} = 0.7 \cdot 10^{-10}$$

meaning that there be about one extra quark for 10^{10} quark-antiquark pairs. Avoiding such extreme fine-tuning by a dynamical mechanism able to produce this number out of an initially symmetric configuration is the purpose of baryogenesis.

Many mechanisms of baryogenesis have been proposed in the past 30 years (see e.g. [2] for a review including the most ingenious and exotic ones), but most rely on ad-hoc new physics. We certainly would prefer to explain the baryon asymmetry from solid, experimentally tested physics. The standard model of particle physics satisfy this criterion at a desperately high level of precision, and it was shown [3] (see [4] for a review) to satisfy in principle all the Sakharov[5] conditions required to produce a baryon asymmetry. However, what looked like a very small number for initial conditions, now appears too large for the pure standard model to achieve.

At least, CP violation beyond the known CKM phase must be added to resist the strong GIM cancellations in the hot plasma [6],[7].

Furthermore, the only possibility to change baryon number in the standard model is via sphaleron processes which should freeze abruptly below the electroweak phase transition to leave a net asymmetry[8]. Since the transition gets weaker when rising the mass of a single scalar doublet, extra non-standard scalars are invoked to counter the rising of the experimental lower bound on the lightest scalar. Supersymmetry naturally provides a lot of well-motivated extra scalars, but getting a strong enough transition with $m_H \approx 100\text{GeV}$ requires a huge gap between the right-handed stop and all other sfermions, which may seem contrived, and even so, could not protect E-W baryogenesis against a $\approx 110\text{GeV}$ Higgs bound[9]. Unless a scalar is soon discovered, we thus seem to be lead back into the pre-[10] situation, where baryogenesis was a footprint from extreme high-energy physics, with little chance of an experimental cross-check.

However, another experimental signal for non-standard physics has since then developed into a quantitative and solid field, namely the evidence for neutrino oscillations which strongly points toward small but non-zero neutrino masses[11]. If these masses are of the Dirac type, right-handed neutrinos must be added, but we are left with the puzzle: why are neutrinos 10^{10} times lighter than charged leptons? In our mind, the smallest theoretical price to pay for resolving this puzzle is to keep the right-handed neutrinos, but give them large Majorana masses $\approx 10^{10-16}\text{GeV}$: this is the celebrated see-saw mechanism [12],[13], [14],[15]. Such a high Majorana mass breaks lepton number at a slow enough rate, and in a very indirect way, one can say that neutrino oscillations provide a leptonic analogue of the baryon number violation looked for unsuccessfully in proton decay searches during the last decades.

With this theoretical prejudice, we are thus lead to take the existence of heavy right-handed neutrinos for granted. This makes leptogenesis [16] an extremely natural mechanism to consider for producing the baryon asymmetry. Indeed, the decay of right-handed neutrinos can easily leave a CP-odd lepton asymmetry, which standard sphaleron processes can convert into a baryon asymmetry. It is then most interesting to see how closely can this asymmetry be related to tested or testable neutrino oscillation physics, and how much asymmetry can be produced.

To study these questions, we first review in section 2 the generic leptogenesis mechanism, to fix notations and give the formula for the asymmetry in terms of neutrino masses. Then we focus in section 3 on a generic class of 3 families $SO(10)$ models offering a computable connection between leptogenesis and neutrino oscillations. In section 4, we analytically work out this connection in a toy see-saw model with only 2 families, to help and understand the results presented in section 5.

2. Leptogenesis

One of the most attractive scenario to explain the baryon asymmetry of the universe is leptogenesis. In such a scenario, a primordial lepton asymmetry is generated by the out-of-equilibrium decay of heavy right-handed Majorana neutrinos N_i . The possible excess in lepton number L is converted into a baryon asymmetry B by the sphaleron processes. From relations between chemical potentials this conversion is given by (see [17],[18] and references therein):

$$B = \frac{8N_F + 4N_H}{22N_F + 13N_H}(B - L) \quad (2.1)$$

where N_F and N_H are respectively the number of families and Higgs doublets.

At low energies, right-handed neutrinos (N_i) are gauge-singlets, and only appear in the Lagrangian via their Majorana masses (M_i) and Dirac Yukawa couplings (h_{li}) to the Higgs doublet (H) and lepton doublet (L_l)

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_M + \mathcal{L}_Y = \frac{1}{2} \overline{(N_i)^c} M_i N_i + \overline{L}_l i \sigma_2 H^* h_{li} N_i + h.c \quad (2.2)$$

in the right-handed neutrinos eigenbasis ($0 < M_1 \leq M_2 \leq M_3$). By the see-saw mechanism, light neutrinos then get a Majorana mass-matrix :

$$m_\nu = v^2 h \cdot \text{Diag}(\frac{1}{M_1}, \frac{1}{M_2}, \frac{1}{M_3}) \cdot h^T \quad (2.3)$$

The 3 Sakharov conditions are easily met by the N -decays. Indeed, the right Majorana mass fulfils the first condition by violating lepton number L , manifest in the simultaneous existence of both decays channels $N_i \rightarrow H + l$ and $N_i \rightarrow H^\dagger + \bar{l}$.

Second, the CP violation condition can be met by the interference between tree-level and ϵ' (vertex) or ϵ (wave function) one-loop corrections. Indeed, CP asymmetry in the decay (in vacuum) of the right-handed neutrino N_i is [19, 20]:

$$\delta_i = \frac{\sum_l \Gamma(N_i \rightarrow l + H) - \Gamma(N_i \rightarrow \bar{l} + H^\dagger)}{\sum_l \Gamma(N_i \rightarrow l + H) + \Gamma(N_i \rightarrow \bar{l} + H^\dagger)} = \sum_j \epsilon_{i,j} + \epsilon'_{i,j} \quad (2.4)$$

with

$$\epsilon_{i,j} = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \frac{\text{Im}(\sum_l h_{li}^* h_{lj})^2}{\sum_l |h_{li}|^2} \frac{M_i M_j}{M_j^2 - M_i^2} ; \quad \epsilon'_{i,j} = \frac{1}{8\pi} \frac{\text{Im}(\sum_l h_{li}^* h_{lj})^2}{\sum_l |h_{li}|^2} f\left(\frac{M_j^2}{M_i^2}\right) \quad (2.5)$$

where $f(x) = \sqrt{x} [1 - (1+x) \ln(\frac{1+x}{x})]$. Defining

$$A_{ij} = (h^\dagger h)_{ij} \quad (2.6)$$

the virtual N_j contribution to the N_i decay asymmetry becomes for a large hierarchy¹ between heavy Majorana neutrinos $M_i \ll M_j$

$$\epsilon_{i,j} = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \frac{\text{Im}(A_{ij}^2)}{A_{ii}} \frac{M_i}{M_j}; \quad \epsilon'_{i,j} = -\frac{1}{16\pi} \frac{\text{Im}(A_{ij}^2)}{A_{ii}} \frac{M_i}{M_j} \quad (2.7)$$

while in the opposite limit $M_i \gg M_j$:

$$\epsilon_{i,j} = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \frac{\text{Im}(A_{ji}^2)}{A_{ii}} \frac{M_j}{M_i}; \quad \epsilon'_{i,j} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{\text{Im}(A_{ji}^2)}{A_{ii}} \frac{M_j}{M_i} \ln\left(\frac{M_j}{M_i}\right). \quad (2.8)$$

Concerning the third Sakharov condition, let us first assume N_i to be thermally distributed in the early universe when $T \geq M_i$. While cooling, the equilibrium distribution starts feeling a strong Boltzmann suppression when $T \approx M_i$. If the vacuum decay rate $\Gamma_{N_i} = \frac{1}{8\pi} A_{ii} M_i$ was much slower than the expansion rate at that time $H(M_i) = 1.66\sqrt{g^*} \frac{M_i^2}{M_{pl}}$, each N_i would decay essentially in vacuum and starting from $\frac{n_i}{n_\gamma} \approx 1$, we would get [23] $Y_i = L_i/s \approx \delta_i/g^*$. However, decay rates are not necessary that slow, and if the universe is still hot by the time N_i decays, inverse decays dilute δ_i roughly into δ_i/K_i with :

$$K_i = \frac{\Gamma_{N_i}(T = M_i)}{H(T = M_i)} \approx \frac{1}{8\pi 1.66 \sqrt{g^*}} A_{ii} \frac{M_{pl}}{M_i}$$

characterising the efficiency of (inverse-)decay processes when N_i becomes non-relativistic. It is convenient [24] to rewrite this dimensionless parameter in terms of an effective see-saw like mass

$$\tilde{m}_i \doteq \frac{v^2 A_{ii}}{M_i} = K_i \tilde{m}^*$$

with a critical value $\tilde{m}^* = \sqrt{512g^*\pi^5/90} v^2/M_{pl} = 1.08 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{eV}$ in the Standard Model. Below this critical value, decays happen like in vacuum, but the Yukawa couplings are too small for the N_i population to reach equilibrium, and the result depends on the choice of initial conditions. If we assume no initial population, there is also a suppression for $\tilde{m}_i < \tilde{m}^*$, and the final asymmetry

$$Y_i = \frac{\delta_i}{g^*} d(\tilde{m}_i, M_i)$$

contains a dilution factor $d(\tilde{m})$ that is only close to 1 for $\tilde{m} \approx \tilde{m}^*$. For $M_i \leq 10^8 \text{GeV}$ where 2 body scatterings can be neglected, the solution of the Boltzmann equations (fig. 6 of [25]) can be reasonably fitted by

$$d(\tilde{m}) = \frac{1}{(\tilde{m}/10\tilde{m}^*)^{-0.8} + (\tilde{m}/0.28\tilde{m}^*)^{1.25}}$$

which is compared with the usual approximation[23] $d(K > 10) \approx 0.3(K \ln^{0.6} K)^{-1}$ on figure 1 (see also [26]).

¹The expressions (2.5) anyway require resumming in the degenerate limit, as the asymmetry should then vanish instead of diverging[21, 20, 18, 22].

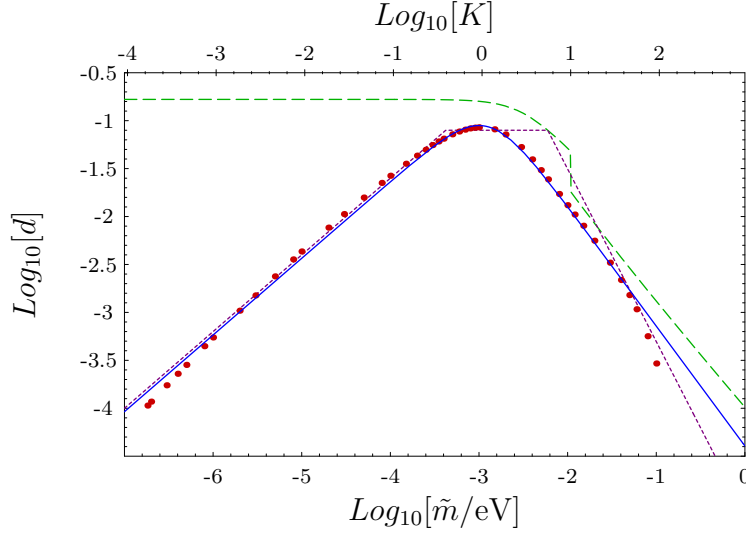


Figure 1: Fits of the dilution factor d computed by [25] in the SM for $M_1 = 10^8 \text{GeV}$ (red dots): the plain blue curve is our formula (2), to be compared with: 1) the usual approximation $0.3(K \ln^{0.6} K)^{-1}$ for large K from [23], extended to lower K 's following [27] (green dashed curve); 2) the expression of [28], more appropriate for larger M_1 (purple dotted curve).

Decay of the lightest N_1 usually gives the latest and dominant contribution, because comparing (2.7) and (2.8) shows that other N_j 's are suppressed by A_{11}^2/A_{jj}^2 (typically 10^{-10}) and further diluted by scattering processes (see for instance [29] for a discussion of such processes). Using $Y_B \approx -1/3 Y_L$ from sphaleron conversion (2.1), the final baryon asymmetry we use in section 5 is then:

$$Y_{B10} \doteq 10^{10} Y_B \approx -\frac{10^{10}}{3g^*} d(\tilde{m}_1, M_1) \frac{-3M_1}{16\pi A_{11}} \sum_{j=2,3} \frac{\text{Im}(A_{1j}^2)}{M_j} \approx 0.7 \quad (2.9)$$

At this level, no constraints from neutrino oscillations encoded in (2.3) can be drawn because the Yukawa coefficients h are free parameters: for any set of parameters (h, M) providing good oscillation physics but bad Y_{B10} , we can rescale $h \rightarrow h' = h/\sqrt{Y_{B10}}$ and $M \rightarrow M' = M/Y_{B10}$ to get the same light neutrinos, with $Y_{B10} \approx 1$. Notice that K and \tilde{m} are invariant under such rescaling, so that the only violation to this scaling law comes from the M_1 dependence of the dilution factor d .

To set the M_1 scale of interest, it is instructive to make the further approximation $d(1 < K < 10^3) \approx 0.1/K$ and assume domination of the N_1 decay with a virtual N_2 exchange. The result for the asymmetry is then

$$Y_{B10} \approx \frac{0.7 \times 10^{-10}}{\sqrt{g^*}} \frac{\text{Im}(A_{12}^2)}{A_{11}^2} \cdot \frac{M_1}{M_2} \cdot \frac{M_1}{10^{10} \text{GeV}} \approx 0.7 \quad (2.10)$$

so that $M_1 \approx 10^{10} \text{GeV}$ is the natural scale for leptogenesis.

To draw any link between neutrino oscillations and leptogenesis, we thus need further theoretical assumptions, of which we now describe our minimal set.

3. $SO(10)$

$$SO(10) \supset SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$$

The $SO(10)$ Grand Unification group is a very natural framework for studying leptogenesis. Indeed [30, 31], it is the smallest GUT group including right-handed neutrinos together with usual fermions in matter multiplets :

$$\underbrace{16}_{\psi} = \underbrace{(3, 2)}_Q + \underbrace{(\bar{3}, 1)}_{u_R^c} + \underbrace{(\bar{3}, 1)}_{d_R^c} + \underbrace{(1, 2)}_L + \underbrace{(1, 1)}_{e_R^c} + \underbrace{(1, 1)}_N$$

Furthermore, it includes $(B-L)$ as a gauge symmetry, whose breaking gives a natural explanation for right-handed neutrino Majorana masses. Finally, leptons and quarks masses are related which fixes the neutrino Dirac Yukawa h . For instance, if Dirac masses originate from a single scalar in the vector (10-dimensional) of $SO(10)$:

$$\mathcal{L}_Y = f_{ab}^{10} \psi_a^T \Gamma_A \psi_b \phi_A^{10} \quad (3.1)$$

we obtain the (unphysical) low energy relation :

$$m_d = 3m_e = m_u = 3m_\nu \propto f^{10} v^{10}$$

where the factor of about 3 comes from the extra color loops affecting quarks but not leptons. Adding a second (or more) scalars in the same $SO(10)$ representation :

$$\mathcal{L}'_Y = f_{ab}'^{10} \psi_a^T \Gamma_A \psi_b \phi_A'^{10} \quad (3.2)$$

lifts the degeneracy $m_u = m_d$ while keeping $m_u \approx 3m_\nu$ i.e $m_\nu \approx 1\text{MeV} \rightarrow 50\text{GeV}$.

To get more realistic neutrino masses, an extra scalar ϕ^{126} in the 126-representation with v.e.v v_{126} in the $SU(5)$ -singlet component can be invoked to break $(B-L)$, providing the Majorana mass term :

$$\mathcal{L}_M = f_{ab}^{126} v_{126} \overline{N_a^c} N_b + h.c \quad (3.3)$$

Thus, in the framework of $SO(10)$, Dirac masses are naturally determined by up-quarks masses.

A_{ij} expression

Writing the relevant Lagrangian term for the leptons we get after $SU(2)$ breaking :

$$\mathcal{L} = \left[\overline{L_a} \times \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v^d \end{pmatrix} \right] f_{ab}^d l_{Rb} + \left[\overline{L_a} \times \begin{pmatrix} v^u \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right] f_{ab}^u N_b + \frac{1}{2} \overline{N_a^c} v_{126} f_{ab}^{126} N_b + h.c \quad (3.4)$$

so that $M_{ab} \doteq f_{ab}^{126} v_{126}$ with a and b being components in some arbitrary family basis. Decomposing the Yukawa couplings into mixing and real masses eigenvalues, we write :

$$f^d = \frac{1}{3v^d} U_{Ld}^\dagger \cdot \text{Diag}(m_d, m_s, m_b) \cdot U_{Rd} \quad (3.5)$$

$$f^u = \frac{1}{3v^u} U_{Lu}^\dagger \cdot \text{Diag}(m_u, m_c, m_t) \cdot U_{Ru} \quad (3.6)$$

$$f^{126} = \frac{1}{v^{126}} U_M^* \cdot \text{Diag}(M_1 < M_2 < M_3) \cdot U_M^\dagger \quad (3.7)$$

The previous h_{li} are up-Yukawa matrix elements between charged leptons mass (and flavour) eigenstates (l_i) and right-handed neutrinos mass eigenstates (N_i). Therefore:

$$h_{li} = U_{Ld} \cdot f^u \cdot U_M \quad (3.8)$$

$$= \frac{1}{3v^u} U_{Ld} \cdot U_{Lu}^\dagger \cdot \text{Diag}(m_u, m_c, m_t) \cdot U_{Ru} \cdot U_M \quad (3.9)$$

$$\doteq \frac{1}{3v^u} V_{CKM}^\dagger \cdot \text{Diag}(m_u, m_c, m_t) \cdot V_R \quad (3.10)$$

so that

$$A_{ij} = \frac{1}{9(v^u)^2} V_R^\dagger \cdot \text{Diag}(m_u^2, m_c^2, m_t^2) \cdot V_R \quad (3.11)$$

only depend on the unknown V_R mixing. But the light neutrinos mass matrix is constrained by neutrinos oscillation physics:

$$m_\nu = v_u^2 h \cdot \text{Diag}\left(\frac{1}{M_1}, \frac{1}{M_2}, \frac{1}{M_3}\right) \cdot h^T \quad (3.12)$$

$$= U \cdot \text{Diag}(m_1, m_2, m_3) \cdot U^T \quad (3.13)$$

The unknowns ($V_R, M_{1,2,3}$) can thus be determined from measurable quantities ($U, m_{1,2,3}$) by diagonalizing the matrix :

$$M_R^* = \frac{1}{9} \text{Diag}(m_u, m_c, m_t) \cdot U_{eff} \cdot \text{Diag}\left(\frac{1}{m_1}, \frac{1}{m_2}, \frac{1}{m_3}\right) \cdot U_{eff}^T \cdot \text{Diag}(m_u, m_c, m_t) \quad (3.14)$$

$$= V_R \cdot \text{Diag}(M_1, M_2, M_3) \cdot V_R^T \quad (3.15)$$

where

$$U_{eff} \doteq V^{CKM} \cdot U \quad (3.16)$$

Parameterisation & experimental inputs:

Using the standard parameterisation[32] for V^{CKM} :

$$V^{CKM} = V_{23} \cdot V_{13} \cdot V_{12} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}^* \\ -s_{12}c_{23} - c_{12}s_{23}s_{13} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}s_{23}s_{13} & s_{23}c_{13} \\ s_{12}s_{23} - c_{12}c_{23}s_{13} & -c_{12}s_{23} - s_{12}c_{23}s_{13} & c_{23}c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \quad (3.17)$$

we use the following values for the quark mixing angles:

$$\begin{aligned}s_{23}^{CKM} &= 0.041 \\ s_{13}^{CKM} &= 0.0036 e^{i\delta^{CKM}}; \delta^{CKM} \approx 1 \\ s_{12}^{CKM} &= 0.223\end{aligned}$$

As for light neutrinos[33], we label mass eigenstates so that the most constraining experiments each fix a definite mixing angle and use a similar decomposition with three complex mixing angles, and Majorana phases:

$$\begin{aligned}U &= \underbrace{U_{23}}_{atm} \cdot \underbrace{U_{13}}_{Chooz} \cdot \underbrace{U_{12}}_{sun} \cdot \text{Diag}(1, e^{i\phi_1}, e^{i\phi_2}) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} c_{sun}c_{e3} & s_{12}^*c_{e3} & s_{13}^* \\ -s_{12}c_{atm} - c_{sun}s_{23}^*s_{13} & c_{sun}c_{atm} - s_{12}^*s_{23}^*s_{13} & s_{23}^*c_{e3} \\ s_{12}s_{23} - c_{sun}c_{atm}s_{13} & -c_{sun}s_{23} - s_{12}^*c_{atm}s_{13} & c_{atm}c_{e3} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\phi_1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\phi_2} \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}\tag{3.18}$$

where the complex parameters are:

$$\begin{aligned}s_{12} &= s_{sun}e^{i\delta_{12}} \\ s_{13} &= s_{e3}e^{i\delta_{13}} \\ s_{23} &= s_{atm}e^{i\delta_{23}}\end{aligned}$$

Squared mass differences are then fixed (up to a sign) by the oscillation parameters $\Delta m_{sun}^2 \ll \Delta m_{atm}^2$:

$$m_2^2 - m_1^2 = \Delta m_{sun}^2\tag{3.19}$$

$$m_3^2 - m_1^2 \approx m_3^2 - m_2^2 = \pm \Delta m_{atm}^2\tag{3.20}$$

In both cases, m_3 is singled out by atmospheric oscillations, but according to the sign, it can either be heavier

$$m_1 \leq m_2 \ll m_3 \quad (\text{standard hierarchy}),$$

or lighter than the others

$$m_3 \ll m_1 \leq m_2 \quad (\text{inverted hierarchy}).$$

We take the lightest mass (m_1 or m_3) as the free parameter that cannot be fixed by oscillations. For values of this parameter larger than Δm_{atm} , we get two different realizations of the degenerate case. In the following, it will vary between 10^{-7} eV and 1eV: going below this range requires huge right-handed masses, typically above GUT or even Planck scale; going above does not help to increase the asymmetry, and

generally violates neutrino-less double beta decay experiments[34, 35] (see however [36] for a study of possible cancellations using Majorana phases).

Other free parameters are the six phases: δ^{CKM} (from V^{CKM}), δ_{12} , δ_{13} , δ_{23} (from the complex mixing angles² in U), and the two Majorana phases $\phi_{1,2}$. A careful count of the 6 phases in see-saw models can be found in reference [37].

With the above parametrisation, the experimental constraints from oscillations lead us to take the following values in the subsequent numerical analysis:

- Atmospheric neutrinos[32]: $\Delta m_{atm}^2 \approx 3 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{eV}^2$ with nearly maximal mixing: $\sin^2 2\theta_{atm} = 0.92 \rightarrow 1$ so that $s_{atm} = 0.6 \rightarrow 0.7$.
- CHOOZ reactor experiment[38]: for the above value of Δm_{atm}^2 , $|U_{e3}| \doteq s_{e3} < 0.18$ at 95% C.L.
- Solar neutrinos[39]: we will consider 4 possible resolutions of the solar neutrino deficit:
 1. large mixing angle MSW oscillations (LMA) with $\Delta m_{sun}^2 \approx 5 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{eV}^2$ and $\tan^2 \theta_{sun} = 0.42 \in [0.15, 0.9]$ at 95% C.L. corresponding to $s_{sun} = 0.54 \in [0.36, 0.69]$;
 2. small mixing angle MSW oscillations (SMA) with $\Delta m_{sun}^2 \approx 5 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{eV}^2$ and $\tan^2 \theta_{sun} = 1.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \in [6 \cdot 10^{-4}, 3 \cdot 10^{-3}]$ at 95% C.L. corresponding to $s_{sun} = 0.039 \in [0.025, 0.055]$;
 3. LOW with $\Delta m_{sun}^2 \approx 7.9 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{eV}^2$ and $\tan^2 \theta_{sun} = 0.61$ corresponding to $s_{sun} = 0.62$;
 4. vacuum oscillations (VAC) with $\Delta m_{sun}^2 \approx 4.6 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{eV}^2$ and $\tan^2 \theta_{sun} = 1.8$ so that $s_{sun} = 0.8$;

Although the LMA solution is favoured by the SNO data [40] and confirmed by the latest KamLAND results[41], we still consider the SMA, LOW and VAC situations for completeness and illustration.

4. Toy see-saw (2 flavours)

Before reviewing the results in a full case with 3 families, it helps intuition to work out a 2 families exercise. In particular, equation (2.9) suggests that leptogenesis prefers right handed neutrinos with large mixing and similar masses. This is not easy to achieve by see-saw with large Dirac hierarchies and mixing[42, 43]. Starting from the see-saw formula (3.14), dropping the first family and introducing the Dirac

²Notice that we take $\delta_{12,13,23} \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$, so that $s_{sun,e3,atm} \in [-1, 1]$ and $c_{sun,e3,atm} \in [0, 1]$ instead of being restricted to the first quadrant like the usual CKM angles

hierarchy parameter $r \doteq m_c/m_t \approx 10^{-2}$ for instance and the light neutrinos hierarchy parameter $m \doteq m_2/m_3$, we get in the case of real effective mixing parametrised by $s \doteq \sin \theta_{23}^{eff}$

$$M_R = \frac{1}{9} \begin{pmatrix} m_c & 0 \\ 0 & m_t \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} c & s \\ -s & c \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{m_2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{m_3} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} c & -s \\ s & c \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} m_c & 0 \\ 0 & m_t \end{pmatrix} \quad (4.1)$$

$$= \frac{m_t^2}{9m_3} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} r^2(c^2 + s^2m) & rcs(m-1) \\ rcs(m-1) & c^2m + s^2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{m} \quad (4.2)$$

For a large inverse hierarchy (*w.r.t.* Dirac hierarchy at small angle) $m \gg 1$, we get for small $r, s \ll 1$ (in units of $m_t^2/9m_3$)

$$M_R \approx \begin{pmatrix} r^2s^2 + r^2/m & rs \\ rs & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_R & -s_R \\ s_R & c_R \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} M_1 & 0 \\ 0 & M_2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} c_R & s_R \\ -s_R & c_R \end{pmatrix} \quad (4.3)$$

so that $M_2 \approx \text{Tr } M_R \approx 1$, $M_1 \approx \text{Det } M_R = r^2/m \ll \text{Tr } M_R$ while the right-handed mixing $s_R^2 \approx r^2s^2$ is strongly suppressed by the Dirac hierarchy $r \ll 1$. The ratio appearing in the leptogenesis (2.9) is

$$\frac{A_{12}}{A_{11}} = -\frac{c_R s_R}{r^2 c_R^2 + s_R^2} \approx -\frac{s}{r}$$

and the the asymmetry (2.10) goes in this case like

$$Y_{B10}^{appr} \propto \frac{A_{12}^2}{A_{11}^2} \cdot \frac{M_1}{M_2} \cdot M_1 \approx \frac{r^2 s^2}{m^2}$$

which is strongly suppressed and dominated by the smallest values of m possible. But in this degenerate region $m \approx 1$, another type of suppression arises as s_R vanishes together with the off-diagonal terms in (4.2).

To hope for larger results, we must thus turn to the usual hierarchy limit $m \ll 1$. Assuming again $r, s \ll 1$, M_R in (4.2) then becomes

$$\begin{pmatrix} r^2 & -rs \\ -rs & s^2 + m \end{pmatrix} \cdot \frac{1}{m}$$

By furthermore assuming $M_1 \ll M_2$ (i.e. $r^2m \ll (m + r^2 + s^2)^2$ which turns out to be satisfied everywhere, except when $s^2 \ll r^2 \approx m$ (see figure 2), we arrive at the useful analytic expressions

$$M_2 \approx \text{Tr } M_R \approx \frac{1}{m}(m + r^2 + s^2) \quad (4.4)$$

$$M_1 \approx \frac{\text{Det } M_R}{\text{Tr } M_R} \approx \frac{r^2}{m + r^2 + s^2} \quad (4.5)$$

$$-A_{21} = s_R c_R \approx \frac{-rs}{m + r^2 + s^2} \quad (4.6)$$

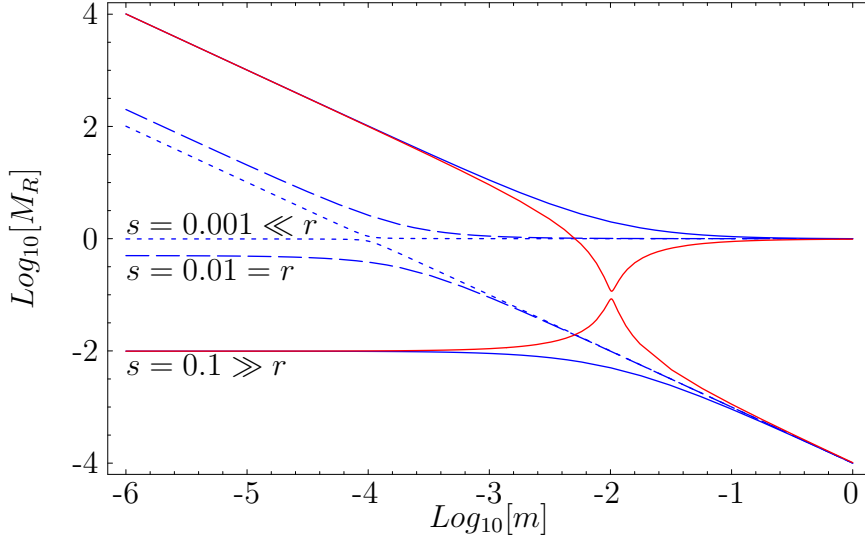


Figure 2: Right-handed masses M_R in arbitrary units, as a functions of light neutrino masses ratio $m = m_2/m_3$, for 3 values of light neutrino effective mixing $s = \sin(\theta_{23eff}) = 10^{-1}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}$ and a fixed value of the Dirac masses hierarchy $r = m_c/m_t = 0.01$. For $s = 0.1$, we also show the effect of the Majorana phase $\phi_m = 0.99\pi$ (red curve) leading to degenerate Majorana masses.

From these expressions, it is clear that a cross-over occurs at values of m around the largest of s^2 or r^2 , but unlike the level-repulsion effect usual in quantum mechanics, the “levels” $M_{1,2}$ do not need to be close for the cross-over to happen, as can be seen in the $s > r$ situation. In this case, the levels do not asymptotically tend to the no-mixing situation away from cross-over region. These results are most simply summarised in the plots 2, drawn without approximation for $r = 10^{-2}$.

Since $A_{11} = r^2 c_R^2 + s_R^2$, the ratio A_{12}/A_{11} only takes a simple form for small mixing $s_R \ll r$ (large enough m or small enough s), in which case the expression coming into the baryon asymmetry is simply

$$Y_{B10}^{appr} \propto \frac{A_{12}^2}{A_{11}^2} \cdot \frac{M_1}{M_2} \cdot M_1 \approx \frac{ms^2r^2}{(m + r^2 + s^2)^5}, \quad (4.7)$$

growing like $m \propto M_2^{-1}$ for small m , reaching a maximum around $r^2 + s^2$ and decreasing like m^{-4} beyond. We see in figure 3 that these approximations capture the general shape of the asymmetry, except for extra suppressions in the regions $m \approx 1$ (left-handed degenerate), and $m < s$ if $s^2 \ll r^2$ ($A_{11} \gg r^2$), where the approximations used break down.

Of course, the true asymmetry Y_{B10} vanishes unless A_{12} gets a CP-violating non-zero phase. Specialising (3.18) for 2 flavours leaves 2 phases, $\phi_m \doteq 2(\phi_2 - \phi_1)$ and δ_{23} , which respectively complexify the parameters $m = |m|e^{i\phi_m}$, $s = |s|e^{i\delta_{23}}$ and $s_R = |s_R|e^{i\delta_R}$ in the previous discussion. It is a bit tedious to check that the above approximations (4.4-4.6) for $M_1 \ll M_2$ and $|A_{12}|$ can be extended to complex

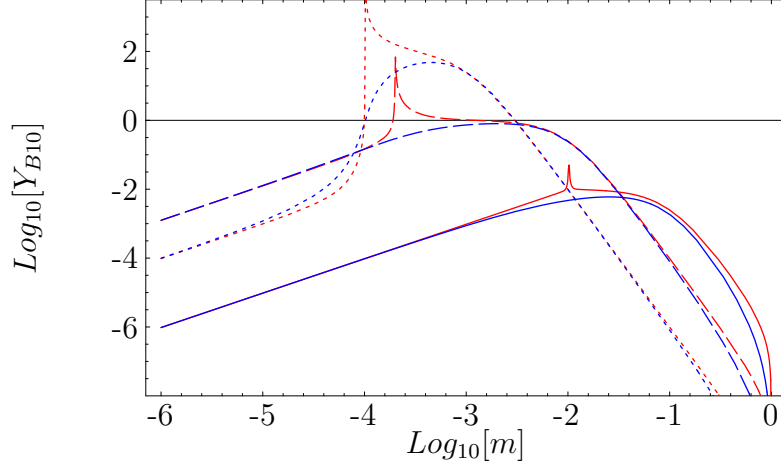


Figure 3: Log-Log plot of the asymmetry Y_{B10} (in arbitrary units) as a function of $m = m_2/m_3$ with the same conventions as in figure 2. For each curve there are 2 twins: the red spiky curve is the exact version of (4.9) computed for the phase maximising its value, while the smooth blue curve is the exact version of (4.7) for real positive parameters.

parameters, and that the relevant phase is given by

$$A_{12} = e^{-i\delta_R} |A_{12}|. \quad (4.8)$$

The asymmetry (2.10) in the same approximation as (4.7) is then actually

$$Y_{B10} \propto \frac{\text{Im}(A_{12}^2)}{A_{11}^2} \cdot \frac{M_1}{M_2} \cdot M_1 \approx \sin(-2\delta_R) \frac{|m|r^2|s|^2}{|m + r^2 + s^2|^5} \quad (4.9)$$

which has the same qualitative features as the previous expression Y_{B10}^{appr} , with a further suppression by the factor $|\sin(-2\delta_R)| < 1$, and a possible enhancement when the denominator cancels, *i.e.* outside the range of validity of the approximations. Figure 3 shows that for a maximising value of the phase δ_R , the correct asymmetry Y_{B10} is close to Y_{B10}^{appr} worked out without phases, after replacing $\text{Im}(A_{12}^2)$ by $|A_{12}^2| = A_{12}^2$. This approximation can be a useful guide for finding upper bounds in the full 3 flavours case, where the large number of phases makes it non-trivial.

To summarise, the lesson learned in this 2 flavours see-saw exercise is that

1. the right neutrinos mass ratio M_1/M_2 is maximised for a ratio of light neutrino masses $m = m_1/m_2$ which is either the squared ratio of Dirac masses $r^2 = (m_{D1}/m_{D2})^2$ or the squared sine of the light effective mixing angle $s^2 = \sin^2 \theta_{eff}$, whichever is largest,
2. the baryon asymmetry can be maximised for a similar or slightly larger value of m ,

3. Majorana phases cancellations can lead to further enhancements around that same value of m (red curve on figure 2), but these can only be trusted after a careful resummation of this degenerate $M_1 \approx M_2$ case;
4. for small mixing, the “inverted hierarchy” $m_1 \gg m_2$ gives much smaller results than the “standard hierarchy” $m_1 \ll m_2$.

Finally, we should also notice that this 2 flavours exercise was based on the approximate form (4.7) which, as (2.10), is only valid for $K > 1$, and overestimates the asymmetry for lower K . For the results below we use the relation (2.9) which includes more realistic Boltzmann dilution.

5. Results with 3 flavours

Let us now discuss the more realistic situation of 3 light neutrino flavours. It turns out the baryon asymmetry is generically too small to be useful. Before concluding that $SO(10)$ see-saw leptogenesis is excluded, we must look for regions of parameters where the asymmetry can be maximised. As seen in the previous section, standard hierarchy is a better candidate in this respect. We will pass in review the various solutions to the solar neutrino deficit, starting by vacuum oscillations (VAC).

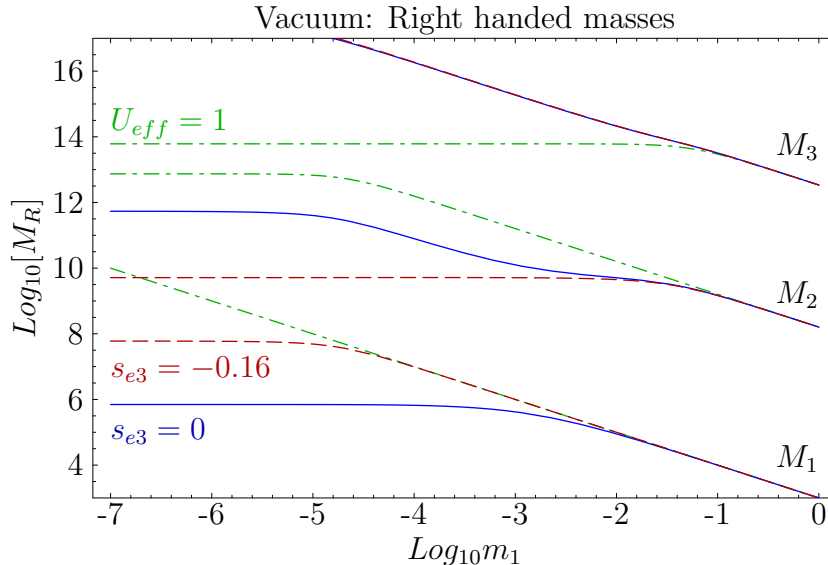


Figure 4: Masses of right-handed heavy Majorana neutrinos for vacuum oscillation of solar neutrinos ($\Delta m_{sun} = 2.15 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{eV}$). The dash-dotted curves completely ignore mixing ($U_{eff} = 1$), the plain curves are for real CKM mixing, maximal atmospheric and solar mixing but vanishing s_{e3} while the dashed curves tune s_{e3} to maximise M_1/M_2 .

In view of the previous section, a good starting point to maximise the baryon asymmetry is to try and make the lightest right-handed masses M_1 and M_2 as close as possible to each other. If there were no mixing, U_{eff} in (3.14) would be diagonal

and right-handed masses would follow the dash-dotted curves of figure 4. For large m_1 (degenerate limit) they draw 3 parallel lines separated by large Dirac mass hierarchies. With decreasing m_1 , all M_R 's grow until $m_1 = \Delta m_{atm} \approx 10^{-1}\text{eV}$, below which M_3 levels off at $m_t^2/9\Delta m_{atm} \approx 10^{14}\text{GeV}$. Meanwhile $M_{1,2}$ continue growing together until $m_1 = \Delta m_{sun} \approx 10^{-5}\text{eV}$, where M_2 stops at about the same value. Further decreasing m_1 then only affects M_1 , which becomes degenerate with M_2 for extremely low $m_1 \approx 10^{-11}\text{eV}$.

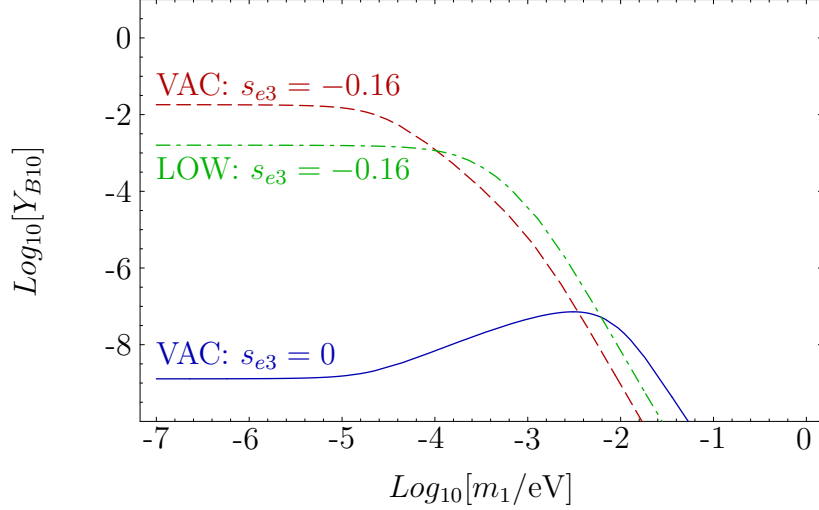


Figure 5: The baryon asymmetry Y_{B10} for LOW and VAC oscillations of solar neutrinos. The plain curve is the vacuum case for vanishing s_{e3} . The gain from tuning the value $s_{e3} = -0.16$ is shown for the VAC (dashed) and LOW (dash-dotted) cases, taking for each case the maximising value of the phase δ_{13} .

If we now turn on the largest allowed atmospheric and solar mixing, we get the plain curves in figure 4. Decreasing m_1 from the unaffected degenerate limit, M_3 starts again levelling off at $m_1 = \Delta m_{atm}$. But the maximal atmospheric mixing immediately induces the type of “level crossing” seen in the previous section, which effectively exchanges M_2 and M_3 . M_2 thus levels off at a much lower value $\approx 10^{10}\text{GeV}$ which offers a better possibility for M_1 to catch up. However, despite keeping $s_{e3} = 0$, CKM mixing in eq. (3.16) still induces a non-trivial $|s_{13eff}| \approx 0.16$ which stops the growth of M_1 below $m_1 = |s_{13eff}|^2 \Delta m_{atm} \approx 10^{-3}\text{eV}$. M_2 on the contrary starts growing again until it is hit by the solar mixing at $m_1 \approx \Delta m_{sun}$. We thus expect a maximum baryon asymmetry around $m_1 \approx 10^{-3}\text{eV}$ in this case. A plot of the full 3 flavour asymmetry (plain curve in figure 5) confirms this expectation, and further shows that this maximum is at least 5 orders of magnitude too low. The shape of the asymmetry nicely fits the picture derived in the previous section, once we recall that for $m_1 < \Delta m_{sun}$ both M_1 and M_2 stay constant. It is also worth noticing that at this stage, the only source of CP violation is δ^{CKM} , and that it drives the right

sign for the baryon asymmetry, albeit with a small amplitude.

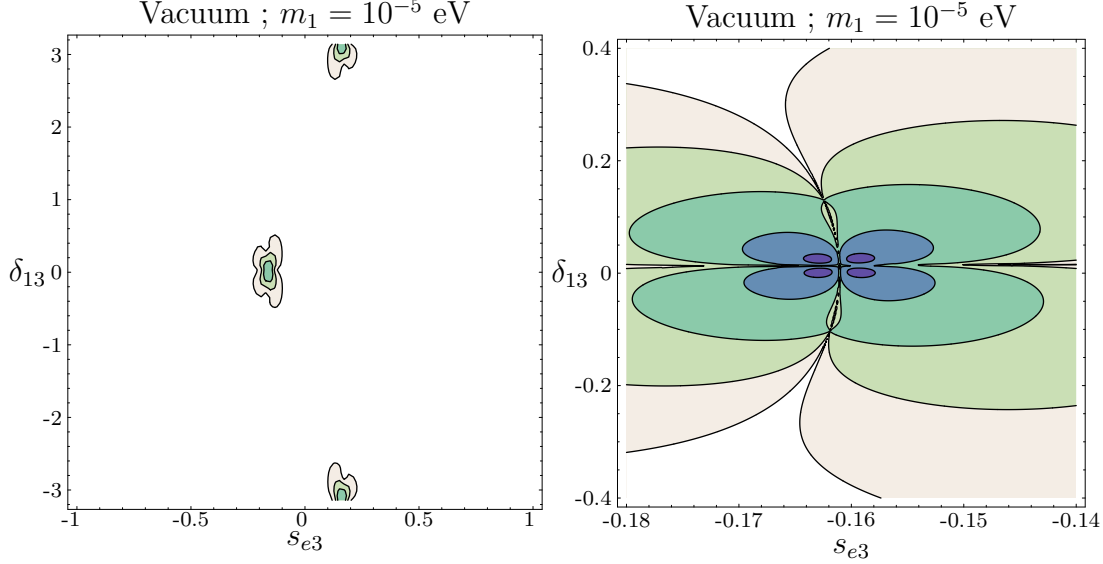


Figure 6: Sensitivity of the baryon asymmetry on the matrix element $U_{e3} = s_{e3}e^{i\delta_{13}}$ most constrained by CHOOZ. The levels of Y_{B10} shown are 10^{-6} , $10^{-5} \dots 10^{-2}$, the latter being only obtained on the darkest dots around $(s_{e3} = -0.16, \delta_{13} = 0.0)$ at the centre of the zoom on the right.

To get larger results, we may use the freedom left by the CHOOZ experiment to play with s_{e3} . Indeed, for $s_{e3} \approx -0.16$ (dashed curve in figure 4), $s_{13eff} \approx 0$ so that M_1 is decoupled from the value of m_3 , and continues rising up to $m_u^2/9\Delta m_{sun} \approx 10^8 \text{ GeV}$. This may give a rise in the asymmetry down to $m_1 \approx 10^{-5} \text{ eV}$. Notice that for such a value, $K \approx 1$ which minimises dilution effects, $M_1 \approx 10^8 \text{ GeV}$ which is safe *w.r.t.* gravitino bounds on inflation in SUSY versions of this scenario, and $M_3 \approx 10^{16} \text{ GeV}$ which is marginally compatible with the GUT scale. It is worth detailing where the special value $s_{e3} \approx -0.22 s_{atm}$ comes from. In the expression of U_{eff} , we may in a first approximation neglect all CKM mixing except the Cabbibo V_{12}^{CKM} . Then keeping terms at most linear in s_{12}^{CKM} and s_{e3} , we may write:

$$U_{eff} \approx V_{12}^{CKM} U_{23} U_{13} U_{12} \quad (5.1)$$

$$= U_{23} U_{13} [U_{13}^\dagger U_{23}^\dagger V_{12}^{CKM} U_{23} U_{13}] U_{12} \quad (5.2)$$

$$\approx U_{23} U_{13} V'_{13} V'_{12} U_{12} \quad (5.3)$$

$$\doteq U_{23eff} U_{13eff} U_{12eff} \quad (5.4)$$

with the commutator V' matrices parameterised like (3.17) with $s'_{12} \approx c_{atm} s_{12}^{CKM}$ and $s'_{13} \approx s_{atm} e^{i\delta_{23}} s_{12}^{CKM}$. Cancelling s_{13eff} then requires to satisfy the complex equation

$$U_{e3} = s_{e3} e^{-i\delta_{13}} \approx -s_{atm} e^{-i\delta_{23}} s_{12}^{CKM} = -0.16 e^{-i\delta_{23}} \quad (5.5)$$

which is illustrated for $\delta_{23} = 0$ in figure 6. One sees the extreme tuning on both the modulus and the phase of U_{e3} , needed to achieve an enhancement in the four dark

central dots of the zoom. Even the sign of the asymmetry violently flips in the four quadrants of this zoom.

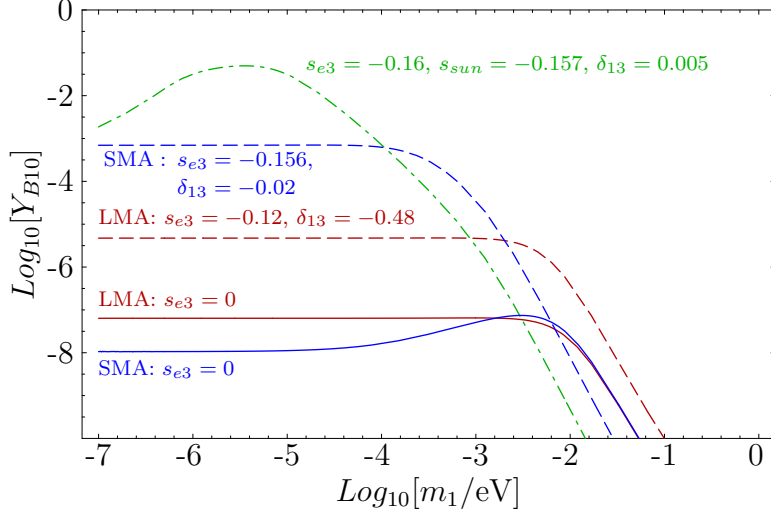


Figure 7: The baryon asymmetry Y_{B10} for MSW oscillations of solar neutrinos with various mixing angles. The plain curves are for vanishing s_{e3} with no phase except δ^{CKM} . The dashed SMA (resp. LMA) curves are for $\delta_{13} = -0.02$ (resp. -0.1). Only the particular dash-dotted curve ($s_{e3} = -0.16$, $s_{sun} = -0.156$, $\delta_{13} = 0.005$) can nearly produce enough asymmetry, but it can not account for the solar neutrino deficit.

The previous discussion can be repeated for the LOW solution, but the larger value of Δm_{sun}^2 leaves less room for the asymmetry to grow before levelling off. As seen in figure 5, the maximum that can hoped for is 2 orders of magnitude too low.

If we now turn to MSW solutions of the solar neutrino deficit, we get a still larger value of Δm_{sun} , and there is too little room for M_1 to grow between $m_1 \approx \Delta m_{atm}$ and $m_1 \approx \Delta m_{sun}$. However, it can grow for smaller m_1 , provided both $s_{13eff} = s_{12eff} = 0$. This is in principle possible, but now requires very special values for both $s_{e3} \approx -0.16$ (as previously) and $s_{sun} \approx -s_{12}^{CKM} c_{atm} \approx -0.16$ (see eq. 5.3). This last value of s_{sun} is incompatible with any possible MSW solution, unless taking s_{12}^{CKM} away from its quark-lepton symmetry value, which is illustrated as a function of m_1 and s_{sun} on figures 7 and 8.

With a standard mass hierarchy, we thus see that vacuum oscillations are the closest to account both for the solar neutrinos deficit and the baryon asymmetry of the universe. With the same line of reasoning, it is easy to see that with inverted hierarchy ($m_3 \ll m_1 \ll m_2$) the asymmetry is even smaller, because of a larger $M_1 - M_2$ gap coming from the bound $M_1 < m_u^2/6\Delta m_{atm}$. Indeed, as the free parameter m_3 is lowered below Δm_{atm} , two M_R eigenvalues must now stop growing instead of one. There are then two possibilities: if M_1 is the only one that grows in the absence of mixing, then maximal atmospheric mixing stops its growth once $m_3 < s_{atm}\Delta m_{atm}$.

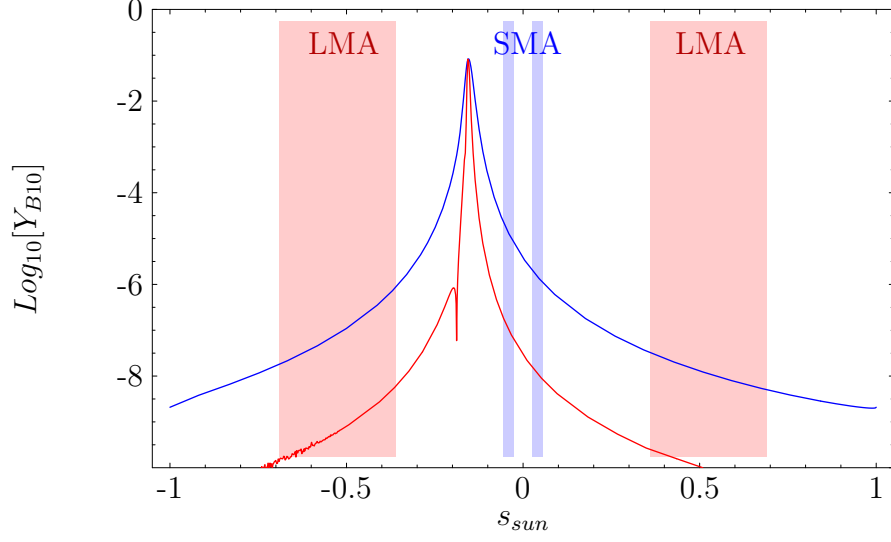


Figure 8: The baryon asymmetry Y_{B10} for MSW oscillations of solar neutrinos (LMA: lower red, SMA: upper blue), as a function of s_{sun} . The maximum is nearly large enough (and sharply peaked) for $m_1 \approx 10^{-5}$ if $s_{e3} = -0.16$, but lies just between the small and large mixing angle rectangles.

If on the other hand M_1 stops growing without mixing, then mixing won't help, as it can only induce “levels repulsion”, not attraction. In both cases, M_1 is at most 10^4 GeV , and M_1/M_2 cannot exceed $m_u^2/m_c^2 \approx 10^{-6}$ which makes the asymmetry too small.

Let us now review the effect of the various phases for trying to reach a sufficient asymmetry. In the discussion above, we have only switched on the minimal phases necessary to get a non-trivial result, namely δ^{CKM} which is unavoidable in our quark-lepton symmetry set-up, and δ_{13} which was necessary to enforce the cancellation (5.5). From this equation, it is clear that if δ_{23} were non zero, it would merely shift the optimal value of δ_{13} , the asymmetry being a function of the combination $\delta_{13} - \delta_{23}$ in the region of the low m_1 peak. A non-zero δ_{12} would induce a much smaller shift, through the sub-leading corrections to (5.5). Less trivial are the effects of the Majorana phases $\phi_{1,2}$. As suggested by equation (4.9), these can lead to cancellations and near degenerate right-handed masses for a fine tuned value of one of the phases and of m_1 . However, the peak in the decay asymmetries $\epsilon_{1,2}$ and $\epsilon_{1,3}$ tend to cancel each other, and get further reduced by a similar peak in K_1 , so that no enhancement of the final asymmetry can be produced for the large $m_1 \approx 10^{-3} \text{ eV}$ where it could occur.

6. Conclusions and perspectives

In this work, we have studied the possible relations between neutrino oscillations and the baryon asymmetry of the universe produced by equilibrium decays of right handed neutrinos, assuming an $SO(10)$ see-saw mechanism for neutrino masses. As explained, this is a minimal predictive set of assumptions to study such relations. We find that the produced asymmetry is generically six orders of magnitude too small because of the huge Dirac masses hierarchy assumed ($r^2 = m_u^2/m_c^2 \approx 10^{-6}$). The closest one can come to the observed asymmetry in this framework is at least one order of magnitude too small and requires vacuum oscillations of solar neutrinos, with standard hierarchy and very specific values for the least constrained neutrino parameters: 1) the lightest mass ($m_1 \approx \Delta m_{sun} \approx 10^{-5}\text{eV}$), and 2) the heavy component of the electron neutrino ($|s_{e3}| = |s_{atm}| \cdot |\sin(\theta_{Cabibbo})| \approx 0.16$).

This result calls for several extensions and refinements. It would first of all be more satisfactory to get the right-handed mass relations we tend to need out of some theoretical mass model for all particles. This seems quite challenging at the moment. Nice family symmetry models like [44, 45] for instance, generically have a much larger M_1/M_2 hierarchy than we found necessary for leptogenesis.

Second, one may question our crude implementation of the $SO(10)$ relations between quarks and leptons Dirac-masses. We simply used $m_{lepton} = m_{quark}/3$, which fails by about a factor 3 for the muon-strange mass ratio. Since the asymmetry goes like r^2 (see eq. 4.7), such small factors should not qualitatively change our conclusions; taking 10 instead of 1MeV for the lowest neutrino Dirac mass could for instance barely bring the vacuum oscillation solution up to the required asymmetry $Y_{B10} \approx 1$. The correct running of neutrino Yukawa couplings may have important effects on the mixing, which could change the interesting value of s_{e3} , and for instance make it inaccessible to first generation long baseline experiments, or on the contrary, already excluded by CHOOZ.

Our conclusions seemingly contradict previous literature on the subject, which usually left the impression that leptogenesis could work without restrictions. This comes from our maybe over-restrictive framework, insisting on both $SO(10)$ relations, and recent neutrino oscillations data. Let us review some of these discrepancies. In reference [46, 24], the authors use $SO(10)$ -inspired see-saw relations like eq. 3.14 and conclude that leptogenesis is generically possible. However, the values taken in the final analysis are hard to reconcile with maximal atmospheric mixing, which at the time was not as firmly established as today. In subsequent works [47, 48], maximal atmospheric mixing is well taken into account, but the Dirac mass pattern considered is derived from a family symmetry in an $SU(5)$ framework; this gives typically larger “CKM” mixing and much weaker Dirac hierarchy than the simple quark-lepton ansatz we considered, both of which increase the asymmetry. In reference [49], it is shown that leptogenesis can be reconciled with SMA solar neutrinos.

But the Dirac masses needed badly violate $SO(10)$ relations. Finally, another way to loosen the strong $SO(10)$ constraints is to invoke what could be coined “see-saw in the scalar sector”, namely a small v.e.v. for a scalar triplet that directly contributes to the left neutrino Majorana mass [31]. This however introduces a new parameter, and non-trivial constraints on the scalar sector as in [50].

Note added: While this work was being revised, others [51],[52] have confirmed the important effect of U_{e3} in the framework discussed here. It should however be stressed that the type of random scan used in these works requires a very fine graining to hit the maximal possible value: at least 10^5 points in each U_{e3} plane, as seen figure 6. After the recent KamLAND results[41], the only surviving LMA solution requires an optimal value of $|U_{e3}| \sim 0.12$ which is but slightly lower than the VAC case detailed in this work. However, reconciling thermal leptogenesis with an $SO(10)$ mass pattern seems even harder than before.

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